

Era of the Residential School Days

story by Paul Dixon

**Hundreds may miss gun-law deadline
Cabinet considers Cree concerns**

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ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

People are getting ready to put out the pumpkins. Halloween is around the corners with all its ghosts and goblins. It's a fun and scary time but a real scare is on the way: flu and pneumonia. It can hit anyone in the winter. While flu isn't seen as a big problem for most adults. You just get sick and little weak but you are young and your immune system is strong. It's usually a high fever, headaches, chills and a dry cough. It can take you several days to get over it, sometimes even weeks if you push yourself. It's also one of the most contagious viruses around. It can spread through a cough in the air or by a handshake let alone a kiss. Schools spread the disease quickly and it hits the community. After all who isn't going to greet a child?

It can be dangerous to others though. Flu can play havoc with our Elders since their immune system is weaker. It can also hurt people who have health problems and lead to pneumonia. People with diabetes and kidney problems can see the flu develop into something more severe.

There is help out there though. A flu vaccine has been developed. One shot and you're ok for the winter. You may catch the edge of a flu epidemic but it won't be as bad as it could be. This is especially important for Elders and the flu vaccine is available to all Elders in the Cree communities. If you are really worried

the whole family who lives with an Elder can get vaccinated so the virus has less chance of being transmitted to them.

The local clinics have flu vaccine for any person over 60 years old, anybody who has diabetes, kidney problems, heart or lung diseases, cancer or anemia, people living with them and health services workers (including homecare).

Contact your local clinic to see when you can go for your shot. It's a yearly thing, so if you had the shot last year you need another one this year. Pneumonia infection risks increase as you get older. Did you know that Pneumococcal infections are a leading cause of death throughout the world? It causes 480,000-800,000 hospitalizations each year in North America. In Quebec 5,000 people were hospitalized because of it in 1996 alone.

With the Pneumovax vaccine, you need only one shot (usually) in your lifetime because it provides long-lasting protection. The program was started last year and Cree clinics managed to vaccinate most people but if you have missed it, inform the local Cree clinic. Most of the people mentioned above for the flu vaccine are eligible for the Pneumovax vaccine.

The risks are there and while it's your life, a lot of us would like to see you stick around a little longer.

by William Nicholls

Vaccinations are one way we can continue to enjoy

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ON THE COVER

Paul Dixon and Dad

Photographer: Alex Roslin

Cover Design: MONA LAVIOLETTE

The new age of hunting

Did you ever notice the increase of hunters out there during peak seasons? Seems to me that everyone's out hunting and this is encouraging to know that traditional pursuits are still being practiced. But, there is a gang of diehards who'll go out everyday, no matter what, after work is over for the day.

I belong to an elite club, namely, "the triple h club." We're known as the "I wonder what happened to that guy. Must have left town" characters as perceived by others who don't know us or what we do during our spare time.

We like to hunt after work.

"Long time no see!" we're told amongst throngs of well wishers.

"Tell me, where have you been?" ask curious patrons of the local watering hole.

"Gone hunting, everyday, for the last six weeks," I reply.

(Cries of exclamation) "Ooohh, how many did you get?" is the usual response.

"FIVE!" I proudly exclaim.

(Silence....) (Heads shaking disguised as nods of approval.)

"Not bad....I got two last week up in (a top secret hunting spot)," encouraged a happy friend. He was obviously cheering for us.

"So...." I continue, "I leave at 5:00 in the evening, right after work. Then I ride off at top speed to get to some semblance of a hunting spot and wait for the six o'clock flight (of unlucky geese). Usually I get about two hours at the most of hunting. So far so good."

"Not like the old days," grumbles an old timer. "I'd be out before sunrise and sometimes wouldn't come back for days. None of this one hour hunting thing."

Hmmm....I think to myself.

"Well...I prefer fresh air to stale beer any day!" I zing back. "I belong to the Happy Hour Hunters Club and have substituted beer for hunting by upstanding to our tradition as



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people who live off the land, no matter what, where and when, during hunting season. I'm out there and happy for an hour or two." My gang nods with approval and support.

"But nothing beats a cold one..." (Cheers from the patrons).

Some times I wonder....

How to tell if you're a candidate for the triple h club:

10. You're using the same shells you bought two years ago.

9. Somehow, you have someone else's raincoat/pants/gear.

8. You cling to the notion that lead is harmless if not applied by gunshot
w o u n d

7. Your teabags in your packsack are getting moldy.

6. You believe that 16 gauge is shotgun heaven.

5. .22 short, too.

4. Sunsets are the most interesting part of the day.

3. You only pick berries and talk of the big flocks you've seen at a great distance through binoculars.

2. You eat your berries and then lie about it when you get home.

1. You always empty your gun into the wild blue yonder at a hopelessly high flock just to impress other hunters within hearing range.

0. You own a three shot bolt action 10 gauge goose gun with adjustable choke.

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Nation

The spies and I

At the moment Trudeau died, I was being watched by spies, dozens of spies.

Almost the entire alphabet was represented - CSIS, CSE, CIA, NSA, MI5. Especially MIB, Men in Black. Somber dark tones are obviously still in style for the discerning intelligence professional.

We were all at the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Security and Intelligence Studies. This is where many of the leading thinkers, celebrities and underbosses of the Anglo-Saxon spy world gather to trade secret handshakes, computer discs and plot world domination.

I arrived fashionably late for the three-day affair, minus cloak and dagger. Why wear a cloak when you've got a nametag? The speeches were already under way in Ottawa's historic Château Laurier, next to Parliament Hill.

Inside were 200-odd spies -- 90 percent of them men, 97 percent white. The only black people were out in the hall serving drinks. Not a single francophone voice could be heard.

Lyndon Johnson once said, "The CIA is made up of boys whose families sent them to Princeton but wouldn't let them into the family brokerage business."

Thirty-five years later, change seems to have passed this tight little fraternity by.

Even the end of the Cold War left it fundamentally unchanged. Today, intelligence agencies are on a resurgence and badder than ever.

For that spies are thanking the internet and a horde of other fashionable new security "threats" -- Native people, anti-globalization activists, foreign companies, organized crime, even polluters.

"The future is far from bleak for SIGINT collectors around the world. Most feel it is a time of plenty," said Matthew Aid, a former officer at the U.S. National Security Agency, which spies on the internet, phone calls and faxes (that's SIGINT in spy speak, or Signals Intelligence).

"There will be more surreptitious entries, more theft of foreign encryption tools, more recruitment of foreign encryption personnel



HUNDREDS MAY MISS GUN-PERMIT DEADLINE

Alarm is spreading among Cree hunters and trappers as the December 31 deadline approaches for gun owners to have a firearms license under the new federal Firearms Act.

The law imposes harsh penalties for firearm owners who don't have a license by Dec. 31, including fines, criminal charges and confiscation of weapons.

But hundreds of Crees don't have either the old Firearms Acquisition Certificate or the new possession license created by the law, Bill 68. Gun owners won't need the new license if they have a valid FAC. They will have to eventually get the new license when their FAC expires.

And time is running out for the many Crees without either permit. It takes six months for the application to be processed and background checks to be done.

Edward Tapiatic, a firearms-safety instructor in Chisasibi, said only 20 to 30 percent of his community have permits.

"It's true a lot of people are concerned about the deadline," he said. "We're in a bind. We are trying to give out as many courses as we can by the deadline.

"If they try to enforce the act on that deadline, I guess they are going to be up to their necks with people who do not agree with the legislation," Tapiatic said.

A Cree police official agreed there is a problem: "In some communities with 2,000 people, maybe 15 people are trained."

The Cree Trappers' Association mounted a major campaign to inform gun owners about the law and get people registered. But there were complaints that the forms and firearms-safety courses were hard

to translate into Cree because of technical language, and hard for Elders to understand.

"There is a lot of red tape. It's a hassle," said Tapiatic.

The new gun licenses have a picture of the permit holder, so it won't be as easy to lend it to someone else. Under the law, gun owners have until Dec. 31, 2002, to register all their weapons.

Thomas Coon, president of the trappers' association, said the federal government should extend the deadline. "In the whole country, there will be a lot of people who will not meet the deadline, not only Crees," he said.

Other First Nations are also worried. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, which represents the Inuit of Nunavut, sued Ottawa in June to exempt its members from Bill 68.

"It violates the Inuit right to hunt, trap and fish without a license or a fee," said Laurie Pelly, a lawyer for the organization.

"Indications are lots of Inuit are having a hard time complying with the requirements. The forms are unnecessarily complex, the requirements are confusing, the safety-course requirement is not easily available, the requirements are not available in the (Inuit) language," she said.

Coon said the Grand Council of the Crees is also studying legal action.

"The right to harvest is not subject to restrictions. The last thing we want is the SQ and wildlife officers harassing our people when they are trying to exercise their right to harvest," Coon said.

Tapiatic suggested Crees could create their own com-

by Alex Roslin

see GUN LAW, page 9

see I SPY, page 9

Challenge

To whom it may concern:

I was in Moosonee this past summer with my girlfriend. We were staying at the hospital because she was to give birth to my beautiful daughter.

Anyway, one day we had lunch in the sky ranch. I had on my Attawapiskat Wolves jersey at the time. On our way out, I was approached by a intoxicated man. We had a slight conversation and he told me he was from Wemindji, Quebec. He clearly knew where I was from because of the jersey I was wearing. As he started to get mad I walked away trying to avoid a scene. From a distance he yelled out that Wemindji could take on Attawapiskat.

Well! From this experience, I can only say that Attawapiskat has held on to the championships for two years in a row. We have defeated everyone in old timer's, women's broomball and men's open division. Teams from Quebec have never tried Attawapiskat and it would be nice to have them in our tournament. I believe our Reg Louttit Memorial Third Annual Tournament starts in February and it would be nice to see new faces from other provinces. I hope to see you then.

Yours in friendship
An Ex-Recreation Director



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TEMBEC SLAMS QUEBEC FOR WOOD SHORTAGE

The president of the forestry company Tembec has broken ranks with his forestry-industry colleagues and criticized Quebec for allowing the forests to be "over-exploited."

"We over-exploited our forests, and we (will now) have to close sawmills and plants. This is a certainty," said Frank Dottori in a presentation to a National Assembly commission October 10.

"The most severe problem we face is that we lack wood," he said.

The commission is studying the government's proposed new forestry law, Bill 136.

Dottori told MNAs that Quebec ignored years of warnings about a looming shortage of wood, so the problem shouldn't come as any surprise.

"I started writing letters in 1976, 1977 to the government that the forest is over-exploited, that we have to see what will happen in 25, 30 years," he said.

Cree officials said Dottori's remarks confirm what they've been saying all along. His statement will likely be used to support the Cree forestry court case, which is now under review by the Supreme Court of Canada for a possible appeal.

Dottori's comments came as the Quebec cabinet prepares to decide whether to offer Crees a better deal on forestry.

Last month, Cree officials turned down Quebec's final offer, which they said was virtually identical to an offer Crees rejected last summer.

Cree officials agreed to give the Quebec cabinet one more chance to come up with something better. Failing that, they promise to crank up the court case and a public awareness

campaign on the issue.

The campaign is now on hold, but not totally abandoned.

Two Cree representatives were in Washington in September to make a presentation to staff members of the House of Representatives Human Rights Caucus about forestry impacts in Iiyuuuschii.

Dottori also told MNAs the province never bothered to do a proper inventory of how much wood was left in Quebec's forests. Tembec was forced to pay for inventories out of its own pocket.

"For 30 years, the government never found the money to do it. It's always: There is wood... They are doing the same thing today," he said.

Tembec is a major forestry company based in Témiscamingue with 8,000 workers and 35 plants across Canada and France, including ones in Rouyn-Noranda and LaSarre.

It is responsible for 9.9 percent of the cut in Iiyuuuschii, mostly in Waswanipi and southern Waskaganish traplines.

Dottori said the Quebec forestry industry has been hit hard by the wood shortage, and predicted serious impacts on the province's economy.

"Where will we find the trees? They don't exist. Sure, they are there, but they aren't economical," he said.

Twenty years ago, he said the average tree coming into Tembec's LaSarre mill was 6 1/2 inches wide. Now, they are 4 1/2 inches.

"We can't even make two-by-eights, or two-by-fours of eight feet; we are left with making two-by-twos, two-by-threes," Dottori lamented.

by Alex Roslin

Team Indigenous scopes out future tournaments

Team Indigenous has been invited back to Finland's Universal Players Hockey Tournament next year, and might compete in the World Junior Championship, to be held in Norway this year.

Canada's national Aboriginal youth hockey squad was a big hit at the Finnish tournament last August.

It placed fifth out of 12 teams with a 4-2 game record. It was the first time the team had played together.

The Finnish news covered the Aboriginal team extensively, and many locals were curious to learn about their First Nations cultures.

"They were the Cinderella team. They had a big impact on the tournament," said Dolores Washipabano, who flew to Finland with her husband to watch their son Charly, 18, play with Team Indigenous.

Charly scored the final goal in a nail-biting overtime shootout in the final game of the tournament.

He plays with the Green Mountain Glades in Vermont, where he also attends college and works in a sports store.

Charly said playing with an all-Native crew was an incredible experience. "It was probably the greatest thing about it, since we came from the same background. It was very different to be playing on a team of Indians," he said.

The team members, all teenagers, quickly gelled into a tight unit under the direction of coach and hockey legend Ted Nolan, winner of the 1997 NHL Coach of the Year Award.

Charly said being coached by Nolan "was definitely quite an experience. He has been quite a rolemodel for quite a few years."

Garbage plan a declaration of "war"

First Nations people in northern Ontario are being joined by non-Natives to oppose a plan to send 20 million tonnes of garbage to the north over the next 20 years.

Toronto city council voted to approve the controversial \$1-billion contract on Oct. 11.

"Toronto has now officially declared war

see BRIEFS, page 9

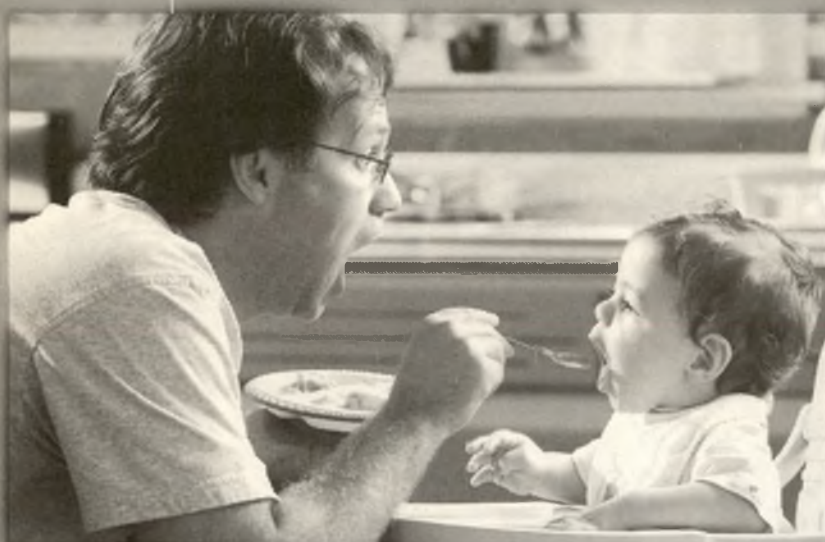
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Native Women's Shelter of Montreal Aboriginal Wellness Gathering *"Moving Towards the Seventh Generation"*

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal is proud to be hosting the Aboriginal Wellness Gathering entitled "Moving Towards the Seventh Generation" on October 27-29, 2000 in Montreal. The Gathering will be held at the Maritime Plaza Hotel, 1155 Guy Street.

The Gathering will include ceremonies, such as Sweat lodges, Healing circles, Pipe ceremony and various workshops. We will also be hosting a banquet and a talent show, which will reflect the diversity, humor and strengths of a community moving towards Wellness.

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Is there a powwow, gathering, festival, tournament or other community event that you want people to know about?
Is there something that the company or organization that you work for is doing that should be noticed by others in Native America?
Is there someone in your community such as an Elder that you think deserves to be recognized?
What are your federal, tribal, provincial, and local politicians up to? Is there anybody running to take their place that you think would do a better job?
Is there something that is hurting Native people and needs to be brought to light so that it can be put to an end?
What issues (local, national, and international) do think are not getting the press they deserve?

Call-in or e-mail us and talk to *the Nation*. We'll get the word out for you!
Phone 1-514-272-3077 and ask for Will or Alex.
Email: will@beesum-communications.com or aroslin@beesum-communications.com

*** Confidentiality assured ***

Briefs

continued from page 7

on northerners," said Grand Chief Carol McBride of the Timiskaming First Nation in a report from Southam News.

The contract with the Rail-Cycle North consortium would see Toronto's waste loaded onto trains for a 600-kilometre trek to the former Adams mine near Kirkland Lake, Ont.

Kirkland Lake city council wants the garbage as a way to generate revenue.

The province ordered Toronto's existing garbage dump to close in 2002. The current dump is on the outskirts of Toronto, in the heartland of political support for the Conservative provincial government.

Now, it's up to the federal environment minister to decide whether to order an environmental assessment.

But federal officials were already very involved in a provincial environmental assessment that approved the site in 1997.

Opponents of the plan say the provincial assessment ignored key issues, like how the millions of litres of polluted water to be sucked out of the mine will be treated before it is returned to a nearby waterway.

Free Leonard Peltier!

Supporters of Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier are hoping to convince outgoing President Bill Clinton to grant Peltier clemency.

They have launched a campaign to get Clinton to act before he leaves office and let Peltier out. You can leave your comments on the White House comments line at (202) 456-1111.

Call once, call often. "Multiply your love for freedom. Every month is Leonard Peltier Freedom Month!"

Gun law...

continued from page 5

munity bylaws on gun safety. As for Bill 68, it has Crees so upset some are already vowing not to comply with the law, he said. "People are saying they should not be ramming it down our throats."

No one was available to comment at the federal Canadian Firearms Centre.



I spy... a spy!

continued from page 5

and more clandestine eavesdropping," he assured the audience.

The future also looks bright for good old-fashioned secret agents. One former officer at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Canada's civilian spy agency, told me privately that this country is "rife" with "agents of influence" -- secret agents of foreign powers. Does that include Americans? I asked. "It would not be unwise to assume that," he said with a cryptic smile.

Alistair Hensler, former director-general of operations at CSIS, said the covert agent's human touch is needed more than ever to combat the "cyber-threat" and swarms of crafty new terrorist groups.

"HUMINT (Human Intelligence, or covert agents) in the ethnic community could help," he told the conference.

It wasn't supposed to be like this. After the Cold War, there were high hopes for a "peace dividend," and it was expected that reductions in intelligence spending would be part of it. There was even discussion in the U.S. of shutting down the Central Intelligence Agency.

But intelligence reform has collapsed. President Bill Clinton stacked a commission reviewing the future of spying with intelligence insiders, who decided everything was fine as is. Today, the U.S. spends an estimated \$30 billion on spying, 50 percent more after inflation than in 1980 at the height of the Cold War. (The actual figure is

still classified, another sign of the unchanging times.)

In Canada, even after some downsizing, CSIS still has 2,000 employees, the same number as in 1984. This year's federal budget handed the Solicitor General -- who runs CSIS and the RCMP -- a whopping \$880-million funding increase over three years.

Why did intelligence reform lose its way? Some say Clinton had too much dirty baggage himself to take on the powerful spy world, including allegations that as Arkansas governor he was aware of CIA-connected cocaine shipments into the Mena, Arkansas, airport -- charges detailed in the book *Dark Alliance* by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Gary Webb (no relation).

But others say reform is a double-edged sword. When the U.S. Congress tried to restrict CIA operations in the 1970s, agency operatives simply worked harder to cover their tracks and stop leaving a paper trail, according to Louis Wolf, an editor at *CovertAction Quarterly*, a Washington, D.C.-based intelligence watchdog magazine.

I contacted Wolf later for his views on the conference. He told me the CIA covered its tracks by contracting out some of its most sensitive operations to trusted private firms not subject to congressional oversight.

If Congress didn't approve funds for a covert operation, the CIA developed other sources of money, like arms deals with Iran or drug trafficking, he said. "If something is really dirty or compromising, they don't want to show the American hand."

--BY ROSLIN... ALEX ROSLIN

Fra of Residential School Days

"How can one find *freedom* without taking it from *somebody else*"

The freedom to choose" in this rich country of ours was never meant for everyone. Aboriginal peoples, the poorest of this country, would constantly fight to have that right. This beautiful country Canada would only recognize or give back "Aboriginal Rights" to areas where natural resources – supply of wealth – do not exist at all or are already depleted and exhausted by the "Industrialized World" it governs. This same country when signing treaties (old or new) with its First Nations peoples would only be full of hollow promises and those treaties would be forgotten right away. Or the Aboriginal peoples would be forced to surrender or release all their rights under a gun – duress.

To add insult to injury, when Aboriginal peoples use the country's highest courts rather than violence, judges or court decisions that favoured them would either be removed or the case thrown out, if "the decision" had not been already reversed against them by another judge. And because laws in this country could be made or changed so, Aboriginal peoples – the first inhabitants of this continent – would never have their traditional lands and waters to themselves or their future generations. Canada, through its actions and behaviour, shows it would not hesitate to use its police force and the army to keep Aboriginal peoples and their lands under its rule always.

In my personal opinion, sending us (Indian children) into their residential schools run by the "Churches of the State," against our will and our parents', was all part of "The Scheme of Plots" happening in this country so they can force us to assimilate into a system, unbeknown to us, so as to go down the same road of destructions, where one generation gets rich while the others suffer.

Also, to preoccupy a Nation's future generations in these "Residential Schools" so as to make them unaware of what is happening exactly, either to force them off the land(s) now or at the least, in any event, hope they would not be in the way, so this same country could claim and steal at will the land and its resources from Indian Peoples they say "they found."

Paul Dixon,
Windy Lake, Iinuuschii

I do not know exactly where to begin my story, but somehow it must be told. Maybe time has passed long enough. I do have my own family now. It is not easy for me, because this story brings back distant memories I would rather forget. I was only a child then. Like so many others we were forced into a waiting bus to attend a residential school somewhere far from home.

It surprises me now how far we can remember our childhood days, only when we want to.

Looking back now at the residential schools, nothing would have prepared me or any other Indian child for what we would go through in the years to come, back then.

And also, never in any of my wildest dreams could I have imagined that in the history of our people such a period would exist, where by law just Indian children would and can be separated from loved ones any time, so as to assimilate them into a foreign system. That this act alone would impact a certain race of people to such extent, these same people would later believe that genocide was for real.

On one of the first trips of many to these faraway places, I remember while staring out the bus window, wondering when and if I'll see my mother again, my eyes caught two

moose standing close together on a small hill, just as we were taking a curve. It was a mother moose and her calf, not moving, just staring at our bus, as if to say "goodbye." For some reason, that image still haunts me to this very day.

Seemed to me, back then, we were traveling in the buses forever to get to these residential schools. While on the bus, I used to hear children cry now and then, but mostly it was quiet. As for me, I just stared outside the window into the dark beyond, lost in my own little world, not knowing where we were going and how long we will be gone. Some other child beside me whispered into my ear "that they were taking us, to the edge of the world, so that we could never run home." To see all these towns for the first time in my life as we were traveling was frightening for me as a child, because I was never this far away from home, alone.

However, I was lucky. I came home once a year in the summer, for a short period, where others who went to residential schools before us were never allowed to go home until only when they could not speak a word of their mother tongue or until they forgot who they really were. Stories were, they left as children and came home as young adults; some could not even recognize their own parents, let alone understand them when speaking.

Stories elsewhere in the remote Cree villages mention that as the fully-loaded big seaplane taxied to take off, some children started crying. By the time it was in mid-air, all the children were crying, as the parents themselves were, still waving "good-bye" from the shorelines.

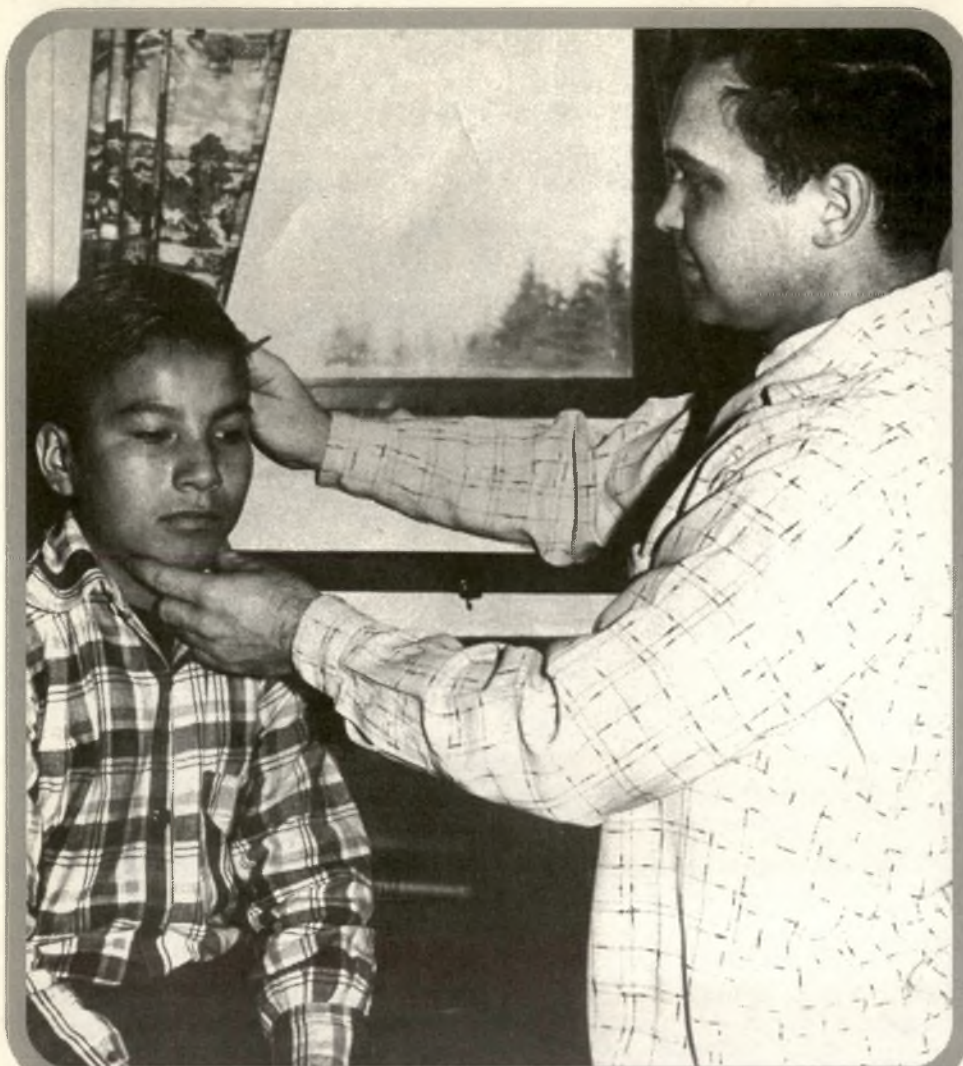
Growing up during "these times" was very hard and rough. Many times we would go to bed hungry. I remember feeling scared, homesick, and at times confused about everything. We were not allowed to speak our mother tongue, and if you had any brothers all were put in separate dorms, so as not to sleep together I guess. And of course, your sisters and the other girls, you rarely saw. They were confined in a separate area, never allowed to play or mingle together. No matter how much you

wanted to. We all had rigid schedules, hardly ever playing outside. We were like robots programmed only to do certain things at a

certain time. It was like a prison – you slept alone, like clock-work you all did everything together,

making no exceptions. Certain places we were not allowed to speak at all. We would stand in lines or rows for hours at an end. I thought back then, we were part of some army too. I felt more sad than scared when I used to see the older boys get beaten up by the counselors in front of us. I remember the time I broke my eye glasses accidentally while playing. I tried to explain, but instead I got my ear pulled very hard right away and was led into this small room and this white man pulled out a thick black strap. The man told me to raise both of my hands and not to move them at all anytime while he was strapping (hitting) each hand very hard many times. Then and there, I learned and made my first "promise" never to break my glasses again. Then I was told to go and stand in a corner, facing the wall, until bed-time. During that night, I do not remember when I fell asleep, but I do remember the pain I felt in both of my hands and legs (from standing) before sleep rescued me.

I am lucky again that there is no lasting physical damage done to me, but this was not the case for everybody. There are those who have problems with their hands today because of the strapping they had back in the time of the "residential schools." Sexual or physical abuses, I cannot speak for and do not have the liberty to discuss the "residential school diseases," as someone else referred to them. This part of my life, "the residential school days" and everything involved with it, I want to forget it ever happened, to erase from my life or to escape the past if I could now, because the opportunity to pull off "the great



Boy is examined by Doctor at Residential School.

escape" from the dreaded residential schools back then had never happened. I do not dwell on the above-mentioned subjects and have never discussed any of this with my children, because it brings back painful memories, not just about the "dreadful schools" but the world we left behind, our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other cousins, what they went through while we were away attending the "residential schools."

Today, we have our own big school to run, through the elected body, the parents' committee, where I am chairperson. Some of the school committee members like myself have been through the "residential school system." We have only waited for this day, as they say, "to be in the driver's seat," never to be driven again. As chairperson, I know the committee members are dedicated, they are there because they care about the children,

the type of education they should have and in a safe environment, with teachers the children know and who understand them. We also encourage the parents to drop by the school now and then. And we show the children that it's alright to hug and be hugged, which I only realized late in life; people who have been through residential schools are always afraid to hug, especially their own parents or Elders. Maybe because it had to do with the fact that nobody was ever there for them, back in their school days, or any other time of need. Our mom, the centre of our lives, recently passed away. Heaven will not be missing an angel now, but we will. I found our beloved mom overly protective and surely spoiling every grandchild and great-grandchildren she had. Many times, at her home in the bush, we got her doing things for our children which our wives were capable of and our cabins were just a stone's throw away. She would cook meals for them and have them sleep over in her cabin. She owned our children. We did not mind; all our children loved her very much. At times, I would catch her alone with her grandchildren – the fondness she had for them, caressing and kissing their hands... It seemed at times she would not let them go.

I partly attribute this to the fact that my late mom had seven children -- five boys and two girls -- who were all taken away at a very young age. My parents were not allowed to raise us. Residential schools situated elsewhere would be given this responsibility.

The sweet moments as you nurture and watch your children grow everyday, which every parent is entitled

to – my parents imagined and could only wish for.

My mom, in her final years, was determined to make up for lost time by surrounding herself with all her grandchildren, because she never truly experienced the satisfaction of raising her own children in peace. In her final days, her weeping grandchildren were at both sides of her bed, holding hands with her. During her very last breath, the children mentioned that they felt her last strong tug of her hands against theirs. She had planned never to let go again.

Without my mother, we realize now as a family not only is life short, but time is precious. Loved ones should never be separated from each other, especially by force; that's including all relatives. Nothing should be just a wish.

When both of my parents were alive (my father is still around today), I never heard them talk about the times when we were away at the residential schools. Only after, when my mom passed away, did my father tell me some stories about how much they used to miss us, when we were all away attending the residential schools, back then.

How my father had wished otherwise, but felt powerless and helpless when all the Cree children were gathered, some crying already, to be forced into the buses. For some, this was to be their first bus ride, ever.

There were some young men, who put up quite a struggle not to get on that bus, but eventually were all over-powered by authorities there. Some mothers, I remember "back then," would hold back their tears, but others could not hide their crying eyes, and some waited until the



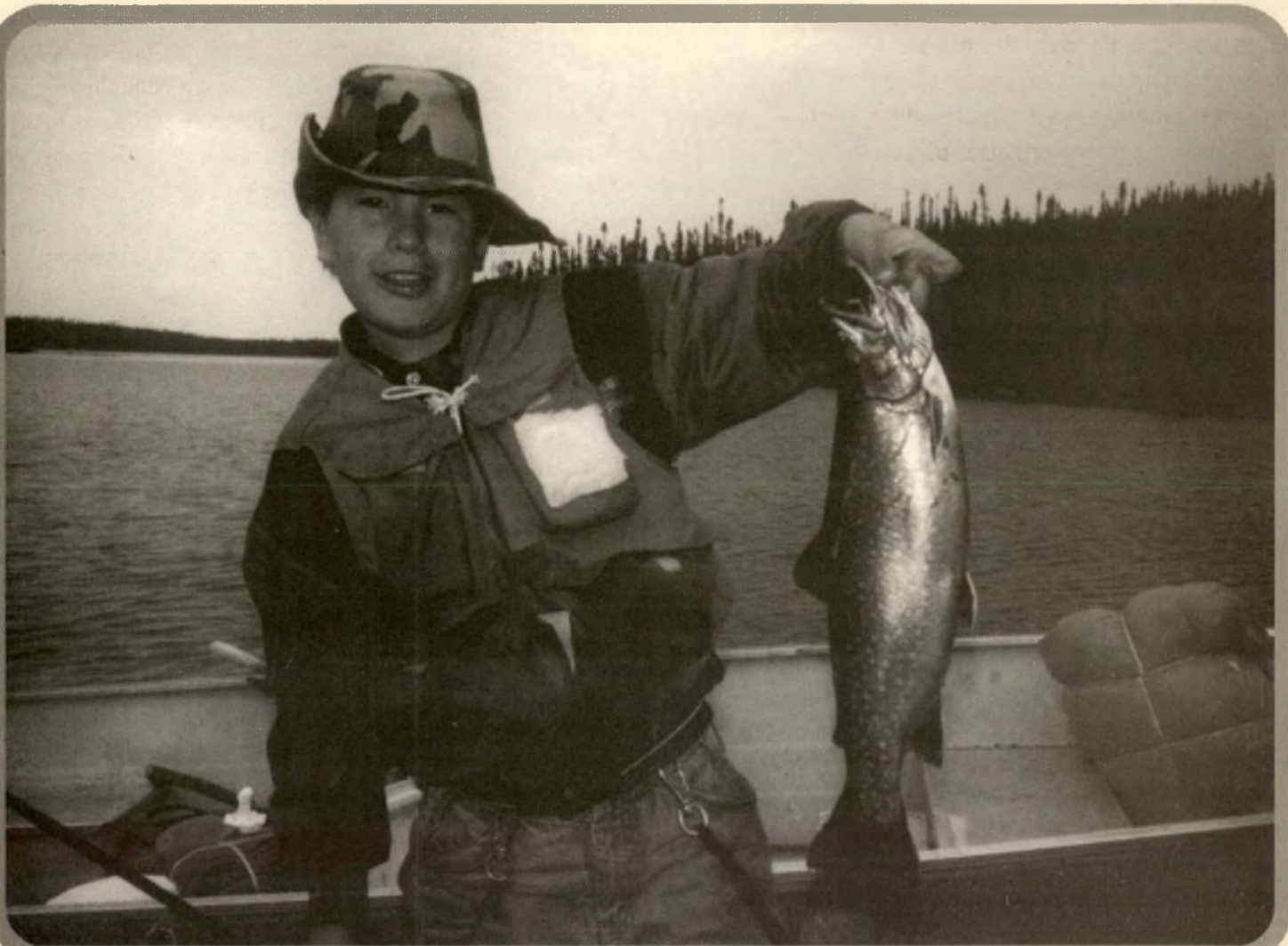
Paul and Jason Dixon hunting geese.

bus left. Both of my parents were born and raised in the wilderness. My father goes on to say, how quiet the bush was and loneliness was a constant companion after all the children had been taken away. He mentions also how my late mother could not get over it soon, crying for months on end.

It was during these times, when the children were away attending residential schools, that my father (he

was and always will be a great hunter) mentioned he was not so enthusiastic about hunting and trapping.

Here, in our village, situated along a beautiful river, similar stories abound – parents, grand-parents shedding tears on a lonely spot down by the river, after the buses have long gone with their sons and daughters. I have never told this story or that part of life to our three wonderful



Jason Dixon with speckled trout at Theodat Lake.
19 inches 4.1/2 pounds of dinner.

children, who are all teenagers now – that both me and their mother (my wife) were forced to attend residential schools far from home, back then. And everything that did happen then was done against our wills and parents' wishes. Me and my beautiful wife, Caroline, we never talk about the "residential school days" because we both learned in life, some things just happen, whether you like it or not, especially

if you were an Indian. I want to forget some things in life. To forgive, do I have to "turn to the other cheek?" I really don't know. But this I know for sure, you need courage to love, courage to believe, courage to hope and, as humans, you need your children by your side, as they grow older and wiser each day. I for one feel that the bonding between families and family members – the ties even with cousins – were

tremendously affected, if not beyond repair, or totally severed in some circumstances by and during the "era of the residential school days," to the extent that our forefathers (Elders) today question our motives, our powers of believing and trust, if we can carry on our traditions and cultures with the same strength and perseverance they had.

Today, the generation that lived through the residential school system

and their children must prove their worth practically every day of their lives, to gain the trust and blessing of their Elders, so one day we will have taken back our rightful place with honour and dignity, not only for our future generations, but for the ones who never made it through alive.

I have never hated the white man, and I know my children never will. My father who is very old now, but still strong, once said, "Even the white man, when his children are nearly starving, will eat from the same table as one." For me, it meant that "love" endures and believes all things; it can conquer all. I can only hope and pray, our great white brother can understand the struggles and sufferings we Native people have been through and why we are so determined to live, to take back everything that has to do with our lives, so we can be at peace with ourselves. I find nothing wrong with this.

The suffering and anguish the Indian people went through here in Canada during and after attending the many residential schools across the country is enough to last them for generations to come. And understand this, a part of us died there, in those stone-cold buildings.

Indian residential school days and the upheaval they caused to a nation(s) and the aftermath that followed years after the last school was closed are the consequences of dictatorship in this country, where oppression is just another name for it.

I am very glad that the residential schools are closed now, but the empty stone buildings still stand

today, as eerie reminders that scars do remain forever.

I have come to understand that when a man wants to turn back time for some reason of his own or has regrets in life, I question nothing, but listen. Did I learn anything at all in the residential schools? Let me put it this way. Because of trials at an early age and life's endearments, instead I learned a lesson in life that we must have the courage and the will to look harder to find life's buried treasures and to dig them up, before they are forgotten, forever. And also, we need not all be chiefs to be great leaders, when in the midst of battle eons ago the survival of a nation depended on how well the young brave warriors fought, so the chief, Elders and children can live another day.

And, we must know this, early on in life: There are no barriers strong, deep, high or wide enough they can hold back a person or peoples when they start believing in themselves. After spending eight or nine long years in different residential schools, finally, in one of our trips home in the summer, I decided not to return to that "system." On the day we were supposed to go back to the residential schools, I hid in the bush all day, eating berries. As a young person then, I had my own reasons, to "escape" now or never. I remember thinking to myself on that day, life is not fair, when everyone around you is either "crying" or "sad" all the time, that one day, the sadness and crying must stop, for all. The same year I left, while in the bush with my parents, somehow, I



The Infirmary

received a letter from the principal where I last attended a residential school. I read and discarded it, never looking back.

Fast forward to the future.

It's been only seven years that I worked in this office now. Our department caters to the hunters and trappers of the community.

In one of our many programs,

we ship and auction the fur they get from animals they need to survive to the world markets. I am glad to have been part of a nation that took only 20 years to get what other nations took 100 or 200 years to have.

Maybe, because we had to make up for it, time did stand still once for us (during the residential school days), and the world had passed us by then.

Before I was here at the office, and ever since leaving the residential school, I spent most of my life in the bush and wilderness with my own family and other members of our clan at our traditional lands, hunting and trapping. I know when me and my wife are old and gray, we will be at home in the bush. Nothing will ever overshadow or overcome, or even come close to it, what I chose to do with most of my life, to have been part of and experienced a culture and a language that were born and found here since the beginning.



Coming home

I want to say also, even without luck, "against all odds, you can beat the system," if you have it in you, to want to.

For me now, each day is a new beginning; life is still full of challenges.

I believe now that our people are on a long journey where there is no turning back, ever. We have no choice but to take back our hopes, dreams, rights, responsibilities and our traditional lands which to a large degree were lost during the "upheaval and aftermath" of the "era of the residential school days," also referred to as "when time stood still and the world passed by."

One way or another, the taking back of lands and everything else will happen, even if we do not like it, because our sons and daughters are well-trained. Like their ancestors, they were born here, it is in the blood, it is only natural for them. Sons and daughters, the strength

about or even share with another person, ever.

This was only a "flashback" for me and part "vision," nothing else.

I want to thank the people for giving me the courage to write this story. Without their support and help, it would not have been possible. Also, I will always be grateful for the moments, "the small gestures of the white man made," when he or she knew something was very wrong then, when we were at these residential schools.

In conclusion, I want to say, "May the Creator bless our leaders always," and also bless our chiefs who never or ever will sell our rights and lands. And to the lonely brave warrior, the day shall come when you can rest, until then... Also, to chiefs and warriors who have gone ahead, "Let mother earth stay with us," we miss you all, like the deserts miss the rain.

Paul Dixon

Burnt Church

by Alison Blackduck

Lobster season is officially over for the Mi'kmaq of Esgenoôpetitj (Burnt Church) First Nation, but their struggle with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans continues.

"We closed the lobster fishery on October 7 and went straight into salmon fishing," hereditary chief Lloyd Augustine explained in a telephone interview, "And already we've had a truck, a couple of nets and some salmon seized by the DFO."

Augustine says about eight Mi'kmaq fishers are exercising their right to earn a moderate livelihood by salmon fishing in nearby Tabinuousac River.

The salmon fishery opened after almost two months of open, and often violent, hostility between the Mi'kmaq, the DFO and non-Native commercial fishers, many of whom are represented by the Maritime Fishermen's Union. The dispute was over the EFN regulated fall lobster harvest.

The Mi'kmaq say a 1760 treaty gives them the inherent right to fish, harvest and hunt their Nation's natural resources, and with that inherent right they are able to legislate their use of their resources.

Last year, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that treaty was binding, therefore allowing the Mi'kmaq to earn a moderate livelihood by fishing year-round. However, two months later the court amended its ruling by adding that the fisheries minister could regulate the fishery for conservation purposes.

That ruling led to this fall's crisis, though Esgenoôpetitj Chief Wilbur Dedam says the struggle over an aboriginal treaty fishery really started about nine years ago with an earlier court decision known as *Sparrow*.

To date, the DFO says publicly that it seized more than 5,000 lobster traps from Esgenoôpetitj fishers since the EFN lobster fishery opened in August—a figure Augustine disputes.

"The figure is more like 1200," he says.

The numbers generated by DFO were based on all traps seized from Miramichi Bay, regardless of whether they bore EFN tags or not. The number quoted by Augustine is based on traps that bore EFN tags and belonged to Mi'kmaq fishers who agreed to abide by the EFN Fishery Act. The other untagged traps could have belonged to anybody, including Native or non-Native poachers.

However, in the maddening world of media spin doctoring, the DFO released its skewed, unreliable figures to justify their unjust enforcement of the EFN fishery.

On September 19, the EFN agreed to end their lobster fishery on October 7 rather than October 31, as planned, to appease the DFO.

The community reasoned that since the water was cooling sooner than expected, the lobster were migrating further out from shore and, having had most of their enforcement vessels seized illegally by the DFO, the Esgenoôpetitj Rangers were unable to ensure the safety of Mi'kmaq fishers who would have to travel more than 20 kilometres to set traps.

It wasn't enough for the DFO.

Two days later, the DFO issued an ultimatum to the EFN, "Get your traps out by 11:00 a.m. the next day or we'll remove them for you."

What ensued was 24 hours of fear, paranoia and anxiety for the people in Esgenoôpetitj. The next morning, hundreds of people gathered on the shore to send a message of unity to the DFO who were expected to arrive en masse at 11:00 a.m. The DFO didn't come as scheduled; instead they opted to terrorize the psychological and physical warfare for more than two weeks.

Three separate reports of gunfire during the four days after the deadline added to the tension. Two incidents allegedly originated from the Mi'kmaq side, yet only three non-Native men have been charged to date. That incident happened in the early morning of September 22. The men charged, one of whom is a commercial fisher, were found intoxicated with firearms in their possession at the wharf in

Neguac (the town adjacent to Esgenoôpetitj) an hour after four gunshots were heard.

"They [the DFO] kept playing cat-and-mouse games everyday," Augustine says. "They'd come in, try to seize as many traps as they could, then we'd chase them away."

St'at'imc Chief Garry John traveled to Esgenoôpetitj from Seton Lake Band in interior of B.C. to support the Mi'kmaq and demonstrate his Nation's solidarity with them.

Like Augustine, John also decries the DFO tactics as an exhausting game of cat-and-mouse, yet quickly adds that whenever DFO vessels were approaching, he'd jump into a boat with the warriors to protect what precious little the Mi'kmaq had left.

"I saw a community of people pull together against an army of DFO," John says. "People in small boats who were prepared to fight knowing that the DFO were armed with guns and pepper spray."

John left Esgenoôpetitj on October 7. On his way home, he was discouraged when he heard that the DFO were harassing the Mi'kmaq for salmon fishing.

"The fellow I was staying with in Esgenoôpetitj earns \$220.00 a month on social assistance and he had 12 of his 15 lobster traps seized by DFO," John laments.

"The DFO has taken so much from the Mi'kmaq and now they're continuing to harass them by seizing their salmon fishing equipment.

"By taking away all their traps and nets, the DFO is violating the Mi'kmaqs' right to earn even a moderate living—now they're earning no living—but I doubt that's occurred to them."

ARNOLD
CHEVROLET OLDSMOBILE

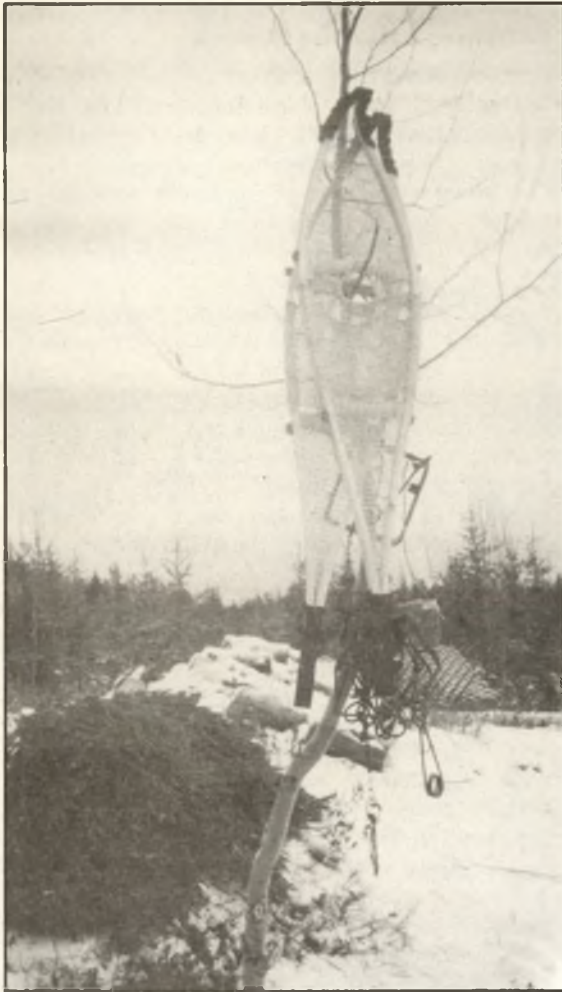
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Keep on Trapping!

Update on the Cree Trappers Association



On April 1, 2000 the long-time president of the CTA, resigned as president to concentrate on his new duties as Chief of the community of Eastmain. Thomas Coon was made acting-President until the next executive elections in the summer of 2002. Donald Gilpin was subsequently elected to be the Vice-President for the rest of the term.

The Association is continuing to finalize the administrative funding agreements with Canada and Quebec and hopes to have signed agreements in the very near future.

Once these agreements are signed, the Association and the Grand Council of the Crees will work with Quebec and Canada on the feasibility studies and funding of programs and executive mandates.

The CTA continues to try to minimize the impacts of the Federal Firearms Registration legislation on the Cree hunters and trappers.



GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EYOU ASTCHEE)
GRAND CONSEIL DES CRIS (ERYOU ASTCHER)



CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION REGIONALE CRIE

FAR FROM HOME

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

Many people from First Nations communities along the James Bay coast spend a lot of time out on the land at their traditional hunting and trapping grounds. These trips vary in time and can last for a few hours or for several weeks or months. The traditional areas that are visited in many cases are close by but can be a long distance which requires several days travel by boat or snowmobile.

These visits back to the land can be very satisfying and restful but sometimes they can also take a turn for the worse due to medical emergencies. Once a person gets ill or needs medical attention they must travel back to the community hospital as soon as possible for treatment. This can be very difficult as traveling at any time of year can be treacherous. Weather is always a factor and determines whether or not waterways in the summer such as the great James Bay can be traveled by boat. In the winter if the weather is bad snowmobiles may not be possible to use to get back to the community. Even after the decision is made to make the trip home with an injured person or someone with a medical emergency, it can take hours over rough water or in severe cold weather to reach the community.

If someone who needs to be treated with a serious medical condition reaches the community hospital they still have to make another trip by aircraft to larger and better equipped medical facilities. In the case of my home community of Attawapiskat these patients must be flown to the Moose Factory Weeneebayko General Hospital where they can be treated and stabilized. Those who need specialist care have to wait for appointments to be set up for treatment and then they must travel even further south and out of their familiar surroundings to cities like Timmins or Kingston which have larger hospitals and can provide the care needed.

My dad Marius recently needed medical attention. He had been out hunting 50 kilometres south of Attawapiskat on the Lawashi River and suffered major heart problems. Dad had traveled with two of my brothers, Paul and Joseph, and our cousin Travis Koostachin. When dad experienced severe weakness the decision was made for my brother Paul to take him back to Attawapiskat, which is a three to four-hour boat ride. Once they made it to the community, dad was stabilized in the local hospital and prepared to make a quick flight to Moose Factory Weeneebayko General Hospital.

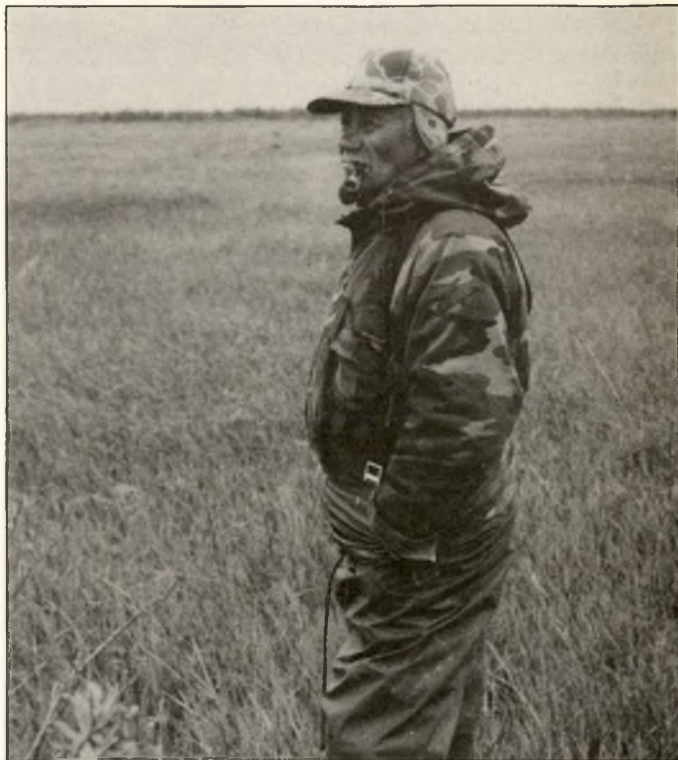
In dad's case he was treated in Moose Factory, but had to wait to travel to Kingston to receive specialist care. He was brought back to better health and I am thankful for the great job the medical staff and Dr. Derek Boan, of Moose Factory Weeneebayko Hospital, did in assisting my father.

When he arrived in Kingston he was treated for his condition and provided with many services to help him with his stay. My mother Susan was also able to fly with him to Kingston as an escort. It is really important for people from up the coast to be able to be accompanied by an escort, who is usually a family member or close friend. You have to remember that for most of my people a trip to the outside world is still a very foreign experience and especially when a person is ill, confused and anxious.

For many of our Elders it is even more important and sometimes they need more than one person to be around them. Many of our older people know only the traditional language so it is necessary for them to have others they can communicate with and who can assist in dealing with the medical professionals. It is also very helpful to be surrounded by family and friends in these situations as we Crees are very family-oriented and need the comfort and reassurance of our loved ones.

I am very happy that the escort program is in place that allowed for my mom to accompany my dad, but I would really like to see that program extended so that two or three people could accompany a sick person as escorts. Any extra cost to do this would be well worth the effort in terms of the patient's recovery.

Kingston General Hospital is a first-rate medical facility and I was very impressed with the care my dad received. I am grateful to all the doctors and staff who assisted my father and communicated with my mom and my sister Jackie who were with dad. I also thank the staff of Geaganano House for their wonderful care for my family. Geaganano House is a great service facility staffed with First Nations people that accommodates and assists patients from up the coast and their families. Meegwetich for making my family's difficult time a lot easier.



YOU'VE HEARD OF 'WHERE'S WALDO'? WELL IT'S TIME TO PLAY:

*** WHERE'S NAULDO? ***

Since his appointment a year ago, the Minister of Indian Affairs, Robert Nault, has been conspicuously absent from places one would expect to see a man of his position: Saskatoon (where police dump Natives outside town in winter), Caldwell First Nation, Burnt Church, the Ipperwash Vigil on September 6th, the barricades at Kokomville in Quebec, the B.C. interior, and sit-ins and barricades across Canada.

He's not even in his office. No-one has met him there and he doesn't answer his mail.

Some say Ottawa's current Minister of Indian Affairs doesn't exist - that he is, in fact, NOT Nault, but NAUGHT.

Rumours abound Nault may be a hologram or a socially dysfunctional robot, because we HAVE seen PICTURES of him from time to time. Remember the famous one, just a month ago, of his backside as he ran away from the media and community members at Burnt Church? It was an ignoble retreat that caused AFN spokesperson Ovide Mercredi to remark, "I've never seen a white man flee from Indians before".

All this mystery prompts a revival of the familiar child's game/books about a missing man, "Where's Waldo?" - where you look for the missing person in a picture.

Today, October 3rd, we began this mystery search at a rally in front of the Department of Indian Affairs in support of the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Burnt Church People.

Nauldo can be very difficult to find but, much to the astonishment of founding members of the "Nauldo-Seekers Club", we have received reports of two recent sightings.

On September 6th, when Aboriginal, Canadian and international human rights activists were recalling the five long years since non-violent Aboriginal rights activist Dudley George was killed at Ipperwash Park in Ontario, a verified sighting of Nauldo was made at Long Dog Reserve in Treaty Area 9, in remote northern Ontario. While, Nault/Nauldo should have been in his office in Ottawa signing the papers to strike a federal inquiry into the terrible events at Ipperwash five years earlier, he was seen getting into a float plane operated by Mammow Beaver and flying away.

More recently, on September 22nd, Nault/Nauldo was again spotted in public. This time his mouth was seen moving although news reports do not verify him saying anything. The grand occasion was the opening of his new constituency office (would he be preparing for that mainstay of democracy - an election?). The Minister was greeted at this event by Elders, First Nations representatives, and many non-Native constituents who called on him to "Stand with the People" for a just resolution at Burnt Church. In a press release, this ad hoc group noted that "Nault, Kenora-Rainy River MP and Minister of Indian Affairs, has been painfully silent and invisible over the past few weeks regarding the situation on our East coast. His lack of leadership and pub-



Even the search and rescue dogs have had no luck!!
Poor Shadow got sidetracked by a decoy.

lic presence adds to the growing anxiety among First Nations and non-Native citizens alike, in his constituency and across the country. It is the Minister's constitutional responsibility to act in the best interests of Aboriginal peoples in his role as trustee for Indian Affairs." Since the day he got hastily inserted into his job, many of us outside his riding have been concerned about the cavernous 'black hole' that occupies the place where Nauldo should be.

WHERE'S NAULDO NOW? Have YOU seen him? Can you verify your sighting? Send any relevant information to us at animated@web.net.

Please help the "Nauldo-Seekers Club" by passing this message along. Only YOU can help us get to the bottom of this mystery and find the missing Minister of Indian Affairs.

There's more! In this once-in-a-lifetime offer, the "Nauldo-Seekers Club" will Offer a prize of our soon-to-be-released satirical publication called "A Guide to the War Against the Indians: From A - Z".

This prize will go to anyone who can provide 'info' on **WHERE NAULDO WILL BE**.

We know lots of people who are looking for him... They just want to talk.

Ed Note: This political satire came from Mike Constable, who is a well-known professional humourist in the Toronto community. Mike has done some artwork on the Ipperwash issue, one example of which can be seen on his website at union-art.com. You can contact Mike Constable, the "Nauldo-Seekers Club" founder, at animated@web.net. His "WHERE'S NAULDO" message, while humorous, is also very serious and important: Why is the Minister of Indian Affairs not taking care of business?

CREE MINING CONFERENCE

by Will Nicholls

The Second Cree Mining Conference was necessary as a follow-up to the 1st Cree Mining Conference, Jim MacLeod, the conference host, said. "We dealt with issues like training, employment, mining and exploration in the trappers territory," said MacLeod. MacLeod wanted to see a relationship that would benefit both parties. "One of the issues has always been how exploration affected the trappers ability to hunt in the territory for example," he said. MacLeod admits the game is sometimes scared away by the exploration workers and this doesn't help the trappers. "We want to ask the trappers when is the good time for them for exploration to be done," MacLeod. He says that they are asking whether or not airplane surveys or groundwork should be done in the summer fall or winter.

MacLeod feels that the mining industry should make a relationship with the trappers as soon as possible and create a timetable that benefits both. MacLeod says this would help the Cree economy by not scaring the industry out. "We need the money in our economy, that's a given," he said. Cree leaders have said much the same quoting high unemployment figures but like MacLeod believe that mining and other resource exploration must take into account Cree needs.

MacLeod says that mining companies if they are unsure of whether or not something will become a Native issue will back out of a project. "If we can make a relationship now instead of when it becomes overblown like Burnt Church or Kokomville, then we can do something like Troilus," said MacLeod. He said that you can see a difference in Mistissini where some Crees work in the mine. "Crees working there now have their own homes, cars and things like that. You can build your family with that. These are not cheap jobs, they are well-paying," said MacLeod. He said that the jobs are Troilus are blasters, laboratory workers, drivers and drillers. "These are professional jobs. Crees are being used as just labourers like before," MacLeod said.

The environment in Cree territory isn't damaged as much as by forestry operations according to MacLeod. MacLeod sees an opportunity to have both the Crees and the industry monitor environmental impacts and mitigation as part of the trapper/Cree/mining industry relationship. "We can work it out together. It's give and take at times but if all the information is there I can see people being reasonable, especially if there are Cree people working in the environment sector," he said.

Revenue sharing isn't something that MacLeod could see a junior or small company being able to afford. Even 2 per cent would be a large chunk of money to a small company MacLeod says. But if Crees could get part of the taxes levied against the company already then it would be possible in that



way according to MacLeod. "Let's take a chunk of tax money and give it to the Crees where they can use it. Taking it from the small companies will just drive them away," said MacLeod. MacLeod sees the tax revenue sharing as extending to forestry and tourism and other resource exploitation enterprises on the Cree territory.

Conversely MacLeod says that if a Native prospector came to him over a piece of territory he had staked and asked for 2 per cent, he would deal. "Why not, that's his," said MacLeod.

The provincial government officials at the meeting said they are in the field of investing in programs and engineering companies. The government is looking for joint ventures between Native and non-Native companies.

The companies themselves are looking at being able to do a project but also at the availability of workers in the area they want to develop.

If you're interested in this type of work then you should be by studying sciences, says MacLeod. Geography, geology, laboratory work, math and chemistry are important.

"You have to read a lot more," said MacLeod. "The jobs that are perfect for someone who likes the bush are prospecting and fieldwork. In the summer you do a lot of looking because you can see the rock. In winter it's drilling and line-cutting or geophysics. That's why I like it. It's flexible and leaves the spring for goose hunt and the fall for moose hunting. It fits that type of schedule. I couldn't ask for a better schedule." MacLeod said most of the work in the summer was a seven day on and seven day off schedule allowing plenty of time for fishing trips. "That's the Troilus schedule and that's why I think it works for the Crees," said MacLeod.

Corbiere and you

by Will Nicholls

On May 20th of 1999, the Supreme Court gave 18 months for the Federal government to engage in consultations with First Nations peoples in what was called the Corbiere Decision. It was to find a method to balance the rights of on and off-reserve Natives. At the end of the consultations an amendment to Indian Act would take place. The Indian Act's Section 74 on elections will no longer include the words "is normally a resident" as they would be struck out on November 20th, 2000.

The immediate impact would be that non-resident members would be allowed to vote in band council elections. The second impact is that you cannot discriminate based on residency.

Eastern James Bay Crees never had to worry about non-resident voting because we are currently allowing non-resident Crees to vote. The second impact is much more interesting in its implications and will be looked at after some history. In July 1999 the AFN (Assembly of First Nations) put forth a proposal on how to deal with the issue saying that time was of the essence. There was no response to that and on December 9th, 1999 the Minister of Indian Affairs made an announcement saying they were going to set up a process to address elections and they would be starting in January. The process started with the Federal government giving \$200,000 each in funding to the AFN, Native Council of Canada, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, National Association of Friendship Centres and the Native Women's Association of Canada.

The AFN started a technical working group to look at the problem saying the funding wouldn't allow a global consultation but at least they could keep people informed.

There was a working paper authored by the Canadian Department of Justice,



which looked at elections, regulations and options on how to implement non-resident voting. The second was done by the AFN and looked at more than just the voting in elections.

It was only in June 2000, at the National Gathering, that most First Nations even got to look at these two papers.

In August, the AFN and other Native organizations funded by the Federal Government had a meeting to discuss the election regulations. A set of new election regulations was handed to everyone by the Federal Government. Native organizations were told that these had been ok'd by Cabinet. The AFN says that there were no indications on how to implement the new regulations and portions dealing with the Corbiere Decision were left out. "There was no training plan and no specific resource identification to be able to implement the regulations," said Carolann Brewer, AFN executive coordinator of Corbiere. Comments on the regulations were requested by September 23rd from the Federal Government.

The AFN says this was impossible

given that the changes to referendum conduct took everyone by surprise. "It was evident to us that this would come as a shock to many First Nations, who had no idea that the referendum regulations would be changed. There was no discussion of this and no notification to any First Nations," said Brewer.

National Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come responded by saying he was concerned over the lack of discussion aimed at balancing the rights of individuals and communities. He also was concerned that there were no mechanisms in place by which First Nations could implement this decision. "The National Chief felt this was an exercise in off-loading by the Federal Government," said Brewer. The AFN office has also said that the Canada Gazette had inaccuracies in saying there had been discussion on referendums and people were being misled if they were told there were such discussions.

The AFN sees the problems of following the new band election regulations as two-fold: no one has had time to look over the new regulations or be trained in them and so they can't administer them. "We have confusion in the

regional offices on how they can be applied. Even Indian Affairs, in August, was unsure of how to apply them," said Brewer.

The second problem is that the AFN feels there are some responsibilities that have been laid at the feet of First Nations. This meant First Nations Bands would have to compile a membership list that included all off-reserve members and providing the electoral officer with their names and addresses. "In many situations that's not so easy because not all First Nations necessarily know where all their members are. In a number of First Nations there is only a part-time membership clerk, which makes maintaining a up to date membership list difficult," said Brewer. Brewer says the Federal advertising campaign identifies the band office as the place to call for more information and most bands are not in a position to respond. A lot of bands didn't think the new regulations would apply across the board and thought they would be exempt. Bands will be expected to provide complete lists of electors and their addresses. "That's going to be extremely difficult," said Brewer.

Bands who operated under custom code elections may find the new election regulations will apply to them according to the AFN if the Order in Council allowing custom code elections is struck down. A number of court challenges to the custom code are already happening and the majority of bands use custom code elections. Out of 633 First Nations in Canada only 283 use Section 74 of the Indian Act to conduct their elections.

A concern of on-reserve chiefs is the referendums and the Supreme Court recognized that the needs of the community must balance the needs of the individual. Brewer said that in some communities off-reserve voters could surrender the band land base. Brewer says this isn't the overwhelming position but dialogue should serve to alleviate those concerns. Don Kelly, AFN spokesperson, said that the AFN supports the Supreme Court decision and believes that the band leadership represents all its members, on and off-reserve. One of the regulations seems to talk about mail-in ballots but some bands would like to set up polling stations in large urban centers where a lot of their off-reserve membership may be located. Some bands are worried that mail-in ballots are open to fraud.

The options and how bands want to conduct polling and elections haven't been addressed according to the AFN. "I think the Government (Federal) has an inkling of the implications of this decision and they are scared stiff off it," said Brewer. Brewer doesn't think the provincial governments have even considered the implications of the Corbiere decision and how it may apply to them. "This is potentially going to have impacts on so many areas. It could have fiscal

impacts between the federal and provincial governments," said Brewer. "The provinces are implicated too."

That First Nations citizens have a connection to their government and taxation was one of the areas discussed in the Corbiere decision. "Aboriginal residency will stand as a constant marker of potential discrimination and whether this relates to and they (judges) named off a number of areas which included a tax credit. In view of that there are implications which will go across the board," said Brewer. It's something that has to be looked at, said Brewer.

Brewer said that the AFN is requesting an extension to the November 20 deadline from the Supreme Court. The Lesser Slave Lake Council had already requested an extension but the AFN is requesting one on the grounds that there has been an inadequate consultation process. The extension may be defeated by procedures leaving bands with elections coming soon after the November 20 deadline with little hope for help. The AFN is telling bands without the resources or ability to adhere to the Corbiere decision to turn to the Federal Government. The AFN wants to sit down with the Federal Government to determine just how and when the Corbiere Decision can be implemented. "Just when can Corbiere be implemented? That depends on the amount of cooperation we get from the Federal Government," said Brewer.

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CLASSIFIEDS

100 – Births

Ella Salt from Waskaganish is very proud to send an ad in the Nation to her second handsome grandson Sebastien Miywaabenwaashkum son of Johnny Sealhunter and Lucy Salt. When I arrived in Chisasibi and saw your Uncle Paul Andrew Salt holding you inside the van, I told myself the minute I would see you my Grandson I would call you anything I wanted, like "beegooëyansh." When I saw you I felt joy in my heart, you got mommy's eyes, you got mommy's hair. You should get a hair cut now (joke), you look so much like your mommy. I love you. And also Happy Birthday to Jerry, I really enjoyed your Birthday cake. Also Happy Birthday to Johnny & Jacob Sealhunter. I was so happy to be there with you guys. Samuel, sorry you couldn't be there for your father Jacob and your brother Johnny & Jerry's Birthdays, my thoughts are with you. I hope to see you again Sebastien and the rest of the Sealhunter Family. Samuel I want to tell you, Johnny and Lucy are engaged. We all (Jacob Sealhunter & Family and myself agreed) Samuel, please join us as Sebastien is. I, Ella Salt am proud to announce the engagement of my daughter, Lucy Salt & Johnny Sealhunter. Wedding date is unknown yet, but the colors are burgundy and gold. Sincerely, Truly, Grandmother of Jerry & Sebastien, Ella Salt.

Congratulations. To Ann-Marie and Norman H. Jack. On their first baby girl born on Sept. 25, 2000. Having a baby is a beautiful blessing and wonderful gift from God. Take good care of your little bundle of joy. I'm very sure this baby will bring you a lot of joy and happiness into your lives. P.S. Boo-joo-Boy be careful around your little sister. Don't hurt her. She is still fragile. Don't even try to pick her up yet, OK. Take care. Hugs and kisses From: Redfern with Love always, Lorraine and Claude.

Congratulations, to John Paul
Wapachee and Angela Jolly on the
birth of their beautiful daughter Jaci
Ryane Jolly Wapachee born in
Chibougamou on Sept 10 2000,
weighing 10lbs and 11 oz. Once
again congratulations and good luck
on many sleepless nights
lol
From Jason, Cindy and baby
Christie (Nemaska)

I would like to Congratulate John-
paul Wapache and his girlfriend
Angela Jolly on the safe arrival of
their beautiful daughter "Jacie
Ryenne Jolly Wapachee" born in
Chibougamau on Sept.10/00 weigh-
ing 10Lbs 11 1/2oz. I waited so
impatiently and excitedly for that
precious niece...I love you "Jacie"
Enjoy every moment with your
Bundle of Joy. From: Auntie
Brenad-Rose W.Jolly

We would like to welcome our
sweetcha-yeah-yim-seewenoo to be
Jacie Raynne into our bratty club.
We can't wait for you and Tyra-
Lynnsh to walk so we can all create
more mess at Grandma's
house...Nah! we'll end up cleaning it
up...we'll be grandma's little angels.
from your cousins "THE BOSS"
Valeriesh, Patricia and little
Tyra-Lynnsh

Another beautiful niece of mine was born on September 10, 2000. Congratulations to my brother J.P and his girlfriend Angela on the birth of their daughter 'Jacie RYANNE J. Wapachee'. May she bring happiness & more love into your lives. With love, **Celina (Nem)**

101 – Birthdays

Happy belated birthday to Bianca
Icebound on Oct.1st, 2000. We wish
you the very best on your special day.
Not only on your birthday but day
after day. Through the whole of the
year. Hope you had fun on your b-
day, cause you deserve it. We miss
you sis. Hope we can be together
soon. Redfern (my son) talks about
you, he mentions your name some-
times. I know he thinks about you.

Take care sis. THANK YOU for being my sister, my forever friend. You probably know what I mean. Hugs & Kisses from Redfern. With Love always, Lorraine and Claude.

Sending a birthday wish to this guy I met from Moose Factory, Dean Mianscum. He will be celebrating his day on Oct.29. "Hey, Dean, Happy Birthday. Hope you have a blast." From a friend in Chisasibi. You know who I am. P.S. Call me to tell me about your special Day.

My cousin and also my best friend
Karen Matches-Hester, I just want to wish you a Happy Birthday and many more to come on October 15. I want you to know that I'll always be here for you and when you need someone to talk to, I'm all ears. Keep in touch form your number one buddy in Mistissini, P.S. Take care of yourself and take care of your kids. I hope I'll see you soon. I think the last time we saw each other was last June 1999, Right?

Wishing Happy 4th Birthday on October 17, to a very special, sweet, smart, nice, pretty little girl, Neesha-Chanan Shecapio from Waskaganish. I love you very much, you mean the world to me. Love always: Mommy.

Happy 2nd Birthday to our son Brian'sh Cookish on October 12, 2000. Hope you have fun on your Birthday. Remember that we love you with all our hearts. With love always, Mom, Dad and your big sister, Ashley.

Wishing my two girlfriends a Happy 2nd Birthday. Both on October 10. To Betsy Wash and Stephanie Snowboy. Happy 2nd Birthday. Love, Brian'sh XOXOXOXOXOXOXO

To my two Buddies who're celebrating their Birthdays on the 7th and 8th of October. And I would like to wish them a Happy 2nd Birthday first to Davey Snowboy on the 7th and to David Scipipo-Rupert on the 8th. From you Buddy, Brian'sh

We would like to wish our silly Uncle Alain a Happy Birthday on October 18, 2000. We just wanted to let you know that "We love you" very much and Happy Birthday. From you niece Ashley and your short nephew Brian'sh XOXOXOX October 26 is a special day for our Daddy, Bryan Cookish. It's his Birthday and we would like to wish him a Happy Birthday and love you very much. With love always your children, Ashley and Brian'sh

To our great-grandpa who's celebrating his Birthday on October 25. Happy Birthday from Ashley and Brian'sh

Happy Birthday to Christina Kitty
on October 25. Have a Happy
Birthday and many more Birthdays
to come from friend Always, Doreen.

Happy belated birthday to our cousin Sherry-Ann Martinhunter on Sept. 29/00 and to our aunt Greta Martinhunter on Oct.2/00 We love you girls. From Eric and Linden.

We would like to wish someone very special a very happy first birthday on Oct. 11, 2000. Marcus Wesley Menarick you are a very special part in our lives. You brought us so much love from the day you were born. We thank God every day for giving us a very wonderful gift. We love you very, very much. Love always, Grandma & Grandpa Menarick Whapinagoostui

We want to wish Happy Birthday
to our little Nephew Marcus Wesley
Menarick on Oct. 11, 2000. Don't
forget to share your birthday cake
with us. Happy Birthday and many
more B-days to come. With hugs &
kisses from your Uncle Toby and
Auntie Staces. Whapmagoostui

**Desmond Rhea Moar / You're 1
Now Son! / One year ago on October
27 / a dream came true! / A baby was
born / a little boy – YOU! / And
that's why today is so special and fun
/ 'Cause it's your birthday / and now,
you are one! / Happy Birthday with
lots and lots of love, / From mom &
dad / (Shirley & Kenneth Moar)**

CLASSIFIEDS

It's our Brother's 1st Birthday / Desmond Rhea Moar on October 27th / Guess what special day this is / It's Birthday Number One! / Guess what this is wishing you- / Good times and lots of fun! / Guess who's so adorable, / so sweet and cuddly too, / Guess who's loved so very much / It's no one else but you! / Hope you have a really Happy day! / With love from your sisters: / Andrea, Martina & Jennica Moar / Wask

We would like to wish our intelligent and beautiful daughter Patricia-Angel a **HAPPY 3RD BIRTHDAY** on Sept. 10/00. I hope you enjoyed your birthday. may the good Lord bless you with many more wonderful birthdays...Love Always, Mommy and Daddy (Brenda-Rose & Joseph)

I would like to wish my brother John-Pual Wapachee the happiest birthday ever with your two beautiful girls (Ange and of course baby Jacie). from: your sister Brenda-Rose

Happy Birthday to my brother J.P. on October 6. Take good care of your two girls eh? Love always, Celina (Nem)

I would like to wish my wonderful mother Pauline Matthew a Very Happy Birthday on October 6/2000. Happy Birthday mom! Wishing you lots of happiness and laughter on your special day. I wish I was there, I would've made you a cake. With lots of love, your daughter Caroline **XOXOXOXO** (in Hull)

I would like to wish a Happy 21st Birthday to my cuz Janis House (in Sudbury) on October 21st/2000. Have fun on your birthday. Don't party too much cause I know your birthday is on a Saturday. I wish you luck in school. From you cuz Caroline (in Hull).

Happy Birthday to my husband, Anthony Hughboy whose birthday is on October 18th. I hope this special day will be filled with happiness and for the years to come. I love you with all my heart. Cynthia.

We want to wish a Happy 7th Birthday to our daughter, Heather Hughboy on October 12. We love you very much. Love, Mom, Dad, **Tonya, Dalton & Dillon. XOXOXO Bonne Fête mon papa,** Anthony Hughboy. J'espère que on va donner des belles cadeaux. J'aime des pères comme toi, tu es le meilleur père pour moi. J'espère que tu aime moi. J'espère le Jesus es avec toi dans ta coeur. J'aime des beau père cmme toi qui travaille beaucoup sur la maison. Je t'aime beaucoup. Ta fille, **Tonya.**

102 - Weddings

Congratulations to my cousin Ryan Matches and his new wife Karen Gilpin-Matches on their wedding day on October 12, 2000. I am sorry I wasn't able to attend your wedding. I want to welcome Karen to the Matches family. I wish you both and your son Jarvis and your future children a happy long life together. Once again Congratulations. From your cousin in Mistissini, Edith Gunner & family.

103 - Anniversaries

I would like to congratulate my parents Matthew and Emma Wapachee on their 24th Anniversary on Sept.10/00...I want to thank-you both for you support, advice and most of all your unconditional love. Thankx mom for never rejecting my babyish calls every night...love you mommy! (HA!) May the good Lord bless you with many more anniversaries and grey hair. Love , daughter **Brenda-Rose**

Happy 1st Wedding Anniversary to Jack and Barbara on October 8. Celebrating their anniversary in North Bay, Ont. Wishing you many more anniversaries to come and happiness to you both. P.S. Write to me, you know the address. From: D.D.

Happy 23rd anniversary to my parents Andrew and Nellie Coonishish on Sept 10. Wow, your almost at your silver anniversary my brothers and I have to come up with a celebration plan for your 25th anniversary soon. Wishing you a very happy happy belated aniversary and many more to come. Sorry it's late I guess

it's better late then never Love you **Ma and Bap**

300 - Personals

Beatrice Trapper, You are a treasure that lives in my heart. I miss you so much everytime I think of you my heart cries. I love you grandma, you are so precious to me. And you overflow my heart with your love. Thank you for that. I am thankful that you are part of my life. It's a blessing and I thank God for you. I needed to tell you that! I send you my hugs & kisses. Good-day grandma! With all my **love & tears, Amanda xxx**

Since all my thank you cards are still sitting in the closet at my grandmother's home in Waskaganish (which I didn't have time to deliver), I am giving the Nation the opportunity to help us send our sincerethanks to all the people who helped our wedding run smoothly on August4, 2000. We, Mr. & Mrs. John Trapper, after days of planning, worrying, and finally getting to where we wanted to be, thank all the cooks, bakers, drivers, church/reception decorators, church pastors, tablesetters, waitresses, cook helpers, reception help and those we forgot to mention that put a little or a lot of their time in assisting at our wedding church ceremony, reception and dance. Thanks to Lorraine for her endless hours on the night of the decorating, we did-

n't actually see this, but we heard that you opened the gym and eventually closed it late on August 3rd. Anyway, many thanks, Did we tell you that you did a GREAT JOB? Well, you did, all of you individuals that helped with all the decorating. Thank you to our parents Roderick & Hazel Blueboy and Frances Trapper for sharing this special event in our lives. Thank you to the maid of honor, best man, ushers, bridesmaids, ring bearer and flower girls that never got a bit nervous throughout this event. (Who wasn't nervous?) Thank you to all our families, friends, and guests who came near and far that made our day more memorable. Thank you all for your presence, your generous gifts and most importantly, your love. Thanks to Lawrence and Kevin for keeping the dance floor movin' later that evening. I probably would be able to write up a huge book-length list of all the people that helped us through this event. If I didn't mention you personally and you think I forgot you, I didn't. You are remembered and thanked. No distance is too far for sending an important message like this even if it's being sent all the way from Ottawa... **THANK YOU...From Diane, John, Collin and Marlana.**



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never heard of 'em.**

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